

In the Drawings:

Kindly replace the drawings, as initially filed, with the four sheets of formal drawings, bearing FIGS. 1-10.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of January 24, 2008, Attorney for applicant encloses a new listing of claims 35 to 59 to replace the claims previously of record. Attorney for applicant also encloses new sheets 1/4 to 4/4 of drawings to replace the current drawing. These drawings are identical to the original drawings, but are of better quality than the drawings published with the PCT application.

Independent claims 31 and 54, and new independent claim 59 now stress that the leg supports or modules of the apparatus provide independent support of each leg of the enclosures and further include resilient support means or springs. The support for the enclosure thus can be equated to a suspension of a vehicle where each wheel is supported independently on springs. It was in fact one of the aims of the invention to provide a cot or baby enclosure support which provided a similar movement to the movement of a vehicle as this movement proves most soothing to a child or infant and inevitably results in sleep.

Furthermore, independent claims 31 and 54 have been amended to define that one leg support or module includes motion imparting means which imparts the motion to one leg of the enclosure by repeated compression of the resilient support means or springs with this motion being continued through the resilient (passive) support of other legs of the enclosure. Again this can be compared to the movement of the body of a vehicle where one of the wheel springs of the vehicle is compressed and the resultant movement of the vehicle is transmitted through to the other springs. Newly presented claim 59 sets forth similar relationships in more specific terminology.

Other amendments to the claims aimed at addressing the objections raised by the Examiner are pointed out below in reference to the cited documents, for which the following comments are provided:

US 5742960-SHAMIR

The apparatus disclosed in this patent comprises a manually operated crib rocker in which a crib is supported on a rocking support provided for each leg of the crib. Each rocking support is of a swing-like form having a leg seat mounted to a base for swinging back and forwards in a horizontal plane. Each leg of the crib seats on a rocking support and the crib is pushed by hand in a longitudinal direction to swing the leg seats in a substantially horizontal direction (see column 2, lines 54-56; column 3, lines 66 and 67). While four separate rocking supports are provided in this invention, one for each leg, they all move in unison and are constrained to move in parallelism in a substantially horizontal motion.

While the present invention also uses separate supports for each leg, each leg support in the present invention is independent, and is not constrained for movement in unison with the other supports, a significant advance over known rocking mechanisms.

The Examiner asserts that Shamir discloses motion imparting means for imparting a substantially vertical oscillating or reciprocating motion to the enclosure, motion is, in fact, imparted by a person applying a force to the enclosure and not a motion imparting device or means associated with one of the support means (see column 7, lines 1-3).

Although Shamir refers to the arms of the seats of the rocking supports being formed of a flexible material in lines 2-4, of page 6, it is suggested that this is only to serve as an alternative to the rigid arms. Shamir provides an example of a non-rigid core or wire and arms of this form would still serve to guide the movement of the seats horizontally in parallelism. Arms, however, of this form, will not have any effect on continuing motion in the enclosure, as defined in independent claims 31 54, and 59 of the current application.

US 6971127- RICHARDS

This document relates to infant rocking apparatus having an infant support in the form of a trough in which an infant is received, and which is designed to rock the infant from side to side. The infant support can be placed in a crib, or bassinet, or integrated into a crib.

The apparatus in Richards is not designed for use with an infant enclosure having legs by which the enclosure is supported. Lifters are provided to raise and lower opposite side portions of the infant support to tilt the support from sides to side to simulate a rocking motion (see column 1, lines 56-67). Thus the motion achieved in this apparatus is quite different from the motion achieved with the present invention by having each leg of the infant enclosure independently supported.

The lifters of Richards can be pneumatic bellows, or cylinders, or linkages, which are pivoted by one or more actuators. In the first embodiment, the lifters are pneumatic bellows which are inflated and deflated by a control system. Springs within the bellows resist contraction of the bellows to provide support to the infant support. The springs, however, do not effect or continue movement of the enclosure as in the present invention. The springs can extend or retract, but only in the bellows when they are inflated and deflated at the same time (column 4, lines 32-38), or provide support to one side of the enclosure when the other side is tilted by inflation of one or the other of the bellows.

In the embodiment of Figs. 11 and 12, the links are attached to side portions of the support and extend between the support and base. Actuation of actuators connected to the links pivots the links back and forwards (column 9, lines 35-45).

Each of the embodiments of Richards is aimed at achieving a rocking movement of the infant support by raising one side and lowering the other side.

As referred to above, in Shamir, motion is imparted to the crib by a force applied by a person pushing the crib. Even if combined with the "motion imparting means" of the various embodiment of Richards, the resulting structure would only replace a person pushing the crib and simply result in a mechanically operated back and forward motion of the crib. Alternatively the resulting structure may raise or lower opposite sides of the crib providing a rocking motion in the cot. Neither motion is the same as achieved in present invention where each leg of the crib is independently supported, and no suggestion or teaching of combining the dissimilar structures is present.

The Examiner argues that Richards disclose the use of springs 44 (column 4, lines 20-25). However those springs as described would if applied to the crib of Shamir only serve to provide additional support to the legs to resist contraction of the bellows as described, and do not have an effect upon the motion of the crib as defined in the present claims, as amended.

Claim 37, objected to by the Examiner, has been cancelled and while, with reference to claim 38, Richards discloses alternative actuators, they do not perform the function of the present invention as now defined, namely, resilient compression of springs or resilient support means to impart a vertical motion in a leg of the enclosure.

With reference to the objection to claims 39 and 40, although Richards defines an actuator for effecting movement of the enclosure, it is not the momentum of movement of an actuator member which imparts the motion, as claimed, but direct movement of an actuator member applied to the infant support.

With regards to the objections to claims 41, 47 and 50-53, attorney for applicant does not agree that it would be obvious to provide a solenoid actuator as an alternative to the actuator of Richards as such an actuator would not provide the same degree of movement required in Richards, unless the solenoid was of a massive, and impractical size. In any event, the actuators of Richards do not use the momentum of an actuator member not connected to the enclosure

to effect the vertical motion of the enclosure as now defined in these claims.

With regards to the objections to claims 42-43 and 48-59, while Shamir discloses the use of support modules for each leg, they do not provide an independent resilient support provided in the modules of the present invention but provide a swinging support.

In conclusion, the claims presently of record present structural relationships, and operational advantages, over the prior art patents cited and discussed by the Examiner. Claims 31, 36, 38, 39, 41-48, and 50-59 define patentable subject matter over known devices for moving, or rocking, an infant enclosure, such as a crib. Consequently, the instant Amendment should be promptly, and favorably considered, and the application should proceed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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